



CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Supporting the work of the Church

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 20, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission
Re: Docket Number RM2017-3
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter to express my concerns regarding the pricing review being performed by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

As Director of the Stewardship & Development Office for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence, I oversee the annual Catholic Charity Appeal. Since 1925, the annual Appeal supports numerous ministries and programs of the Diocese of Providence which provide social, educational and spiritual support to less fortunate Rhode Islanders each year regardless of race, creed or background. The ministries supported by the Fund range from social service ministries providing direct support to the poor, the hungry and homeless, to immigration and refugee services, and to emergency rent and medical aid. Additional services include prison ministry, justice and peace education which works to end violence in the inner city, and community advocacy for needs in the community.

In addition, these social service ministries work in concert with other ministries, such as the State Department of Elderly Affairs to provide services to Rhode's senior citizens, as well as Respite Care for those who assist the sick and elderly. The Fund also supports a child care voucher program for low income families, a youth camp, two youth centers, and a statewide sports league (CAL), which are open for all children.

Educational support includes substantial financial and scholarship aid to students with financial need to attend Rhode Island Catholic schools. The process for awarding this aid is a "blind" process and is awarded strictly on the basis of need.

The Fund also provides grants for ministries outside the diocese that provide service consistent with that of the case statement of the Fund. Recent grants have been made to the Rhode Island Food Bank and the Rhode Island Poverty Institute. For the past two years significant grants have been made to "Keep The Heat On" – a program for emergency heating assistance for low income individuals or families.

OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

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In conclusion, I would like to once again emphasize that a rate increase would be detrimental in our efforts to raise our goal of \$8,000,000 this year and in the future. On behalf of all those desperate individuals and families who turn to the Church in Providence during their hour of need, I ask for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Corcoran", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Robert J. Corcoran

Director

Office of Stewardship & Development